

## Attendance

ACRC Commissioners	ACRC Interns	MMD Commissioners
Joan Ramsey	Nicholas Glass	
Warren E. Hamilton		
Larry Volk		Marie Allen Campbell
Patricia Sibia		Donna Bulluck
Sita Subbaram		Constance Graves
Leif Hartmark		
Julia Reeb		Guest: Ashley
Mark McCumber	Guest: Professor Wice	Guest: Priya Sankalia

## Discussion Items

- 1. Discussion of March 8 public hearing (25 minutes.) Briefings by Prof. Wice and AppGeo were informative, and also useful for those viewers unaware of this process. YouTube worked well; importance of having backup plans was evident when Nick lost his internet service due to storm. Marie said we should spend more time promoting the hearings – especially the day before. Discussion over the time slot; no time slot is perfect, but this time probably works better than earlier, later or weekend. Consensus that we need to get word of future hearings out more effectively.
- Discussion of “gallery” mode vs “speaker” mode for hearings; both have advantages. Best would be gallery at beginning and discussion, but speaker when hearing testimony.
- More discussion about advance publicity; seek help of local officials, state representatives with weekly newsletters, “pennysaver” weeklies, creating an email list of various groups and individuals. Were the paid newspaper advertisements worth the cost? Value of creating a “snappy” flyer that can be circulated by email and publicly posted. Any “in-person” hearing will require more lead time to get the word out.
- 2. Discussion of using Maptitude (28 minutes.) Julia found the user guide helpful. Discussion then strayed back to comments at the Public Hearing: lack of timetable, need for more transparency. Strayed further into need for more help with our website; whether to hire more interns versus doing more ourselves. Should we have transcriptions of all our meetings, not just the hearings? Priya asked to return to discussion of the mapping software user guide, and Julia moved that the guide be approved.

- Discussion again strayed into need for more interns, possibly shared use of the new MMD interns, to pull together lists of community organizations. Interns' availability is sometimes limited due to class schedules.
- Leif seconded Julia's motion on the mapping user guide. Long discussion of the mechanics of creating, collaborating, sharing, and "publishing" draft maps. Larry called for vote on Julia's motion; and announced that the motion passed. Further discussion on using the mapping software. Larry suggests we all individually try it out as a test. Further discussion of how to share maps; Julia indicated that the user guide explains this.
- 3. MMD draft of possible dates for public meetings and public hearings (16 minutes.) Is there a way to have the public voice opinions at our meetings, or does that only happen at public hearings? Professor Wice stated that the statewide redistricting commission only had public interactions at public hearings. Larry asked if the MMD had decided on virtual hearings or in-person, and Marie said the preference was for in-person/hybrid as much as possible. Wednesdays between 4 and 7pm was proposed in order not to conflict with County Legislature public hearings (which are held on Tuesdays.) The first date, March 30, is very soon. Marie said the contract with MMD's mapper should be signed in the next day or two.
- Discussion followed about draft maps. The only map currently in use is of the present Legislative Districts, overlaid with information on how much "over or under" the ideal size the present districts are in population. Several ACRC members expressed concern about holding any further public hearings without draft maps of revised districts. MMD members seem to want more public input before drawing maps, but believe that the lead time needed to publicize the public hearings requires setting dates soon.
- Larry expressed the need for consensus on a timetable for mapping, and how much time should be set between hearings to make changes to the draft maps. All of us need to take pieces of the work to be done, and we need to settle whether the hearings are virtual or in-person. Patricia noted that the statewide commission had a listening session, drew a first draft of maps, held hearings, then produced a final set of maps. Prof. Wice suggested working backwards from our deadline, setting milestones for each step in the process. He feels the MMD needs to do their work first, since the map of current districts shows the existing MMDs have mostly lost population and need "drastic" changes to meet the population requirements for re-drawn districts.
- Some members had to leave the meeting; Warren moved and Leif seconded, to adjourn. Larry thanked everyone for attending and the meeting adjourned at 1 hour 13 minutes, with the next meeting set for Monday 3/21/22.
  
- ACTION ITEM: Maptitude Guide approved by voice vote.

